the districts of Jharkhand as central share upto 28th February, 2007. The State had utilized Rs. 234.40 crore upto September and Rs. 369.59 crore upto December, 2006, which is expected to go up substantially during the remaining three months of the current financial year which is peak demand season.

(c) and (d) The Union Budget 2007-08 envisages provision for inclusion of 130 more districts in second phase of the NREGA.

Extending NREG Programme in more districts

995. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend the reach of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme to more districts than originally sanctioned; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the entire population below the poverty line in each of the designated districts under the programme has been covered as the sole beneficiaries of the Scheme; and

(c) to what extent the local Panchayats have been empowered and equipped in areas of NREG schemes to ensure proper monitoring and disbursement of wages including muster roll preparation and self-audit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The Union Budget 2007-08 envisages provision for inclusion of 130 more districts in second phase of the NREGA.

(b) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 is applicable in rural areas of the country and the act guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. NREGA is not restricted to BPL households. NREGA is demand based and Employment is to be provided only if a household applies for it.

(c) NREGA guidelines attribute a pivotal role to Gram Panchayats for the implementation of schemes under NREGA. Atleast 50% of the works in terms of cost are to be executed by Gram Panchayats. Separate funds have been provided to the States for training including the members of PRIs. Gram Sabha is empowered to conduct social audit under section 17 of the NREG Act. Cabinet has approved a proposal to enhance the management cost from 2% to 4% which will help in capacity building of Gram Panchayats.

Swajaldhara Programme in M.P.

†996. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are incurring expenses on Swajaldhara Programme;

(b) the details of amount spent thereon by the Central Government during 2004, 2005 and 2006, State-wise;

(c) whether Madhya Pradesh, being a predominantly tribal State, would be given priority in terms of amount of grant; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir/ Madam.

(b) A statement showing State-wise release of funds during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) and (d) At the beginning of each financial year, funds under Swajaldhara scheme are allotted to all States from the Centre as per the inter-State ARWSP allocation ratio fixed for the year. This criteria is worked out on the basis of the Rural Population, States under DDP, DPAP, HADP and special category hill States in terms of rural areas, Not Covered/Partially Covered villages (at 2:1 ratio) and Quality affected villages. No weightage is given for tribal areas for allocation of funds.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.